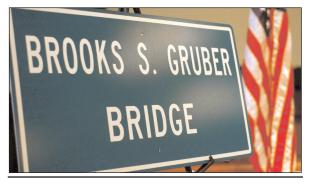


BRIDGE DEDICATION

Bridge dedicated to fallen heroes of MV-22 Osprey testing

Pg. 3



EOD BRONZE STAR



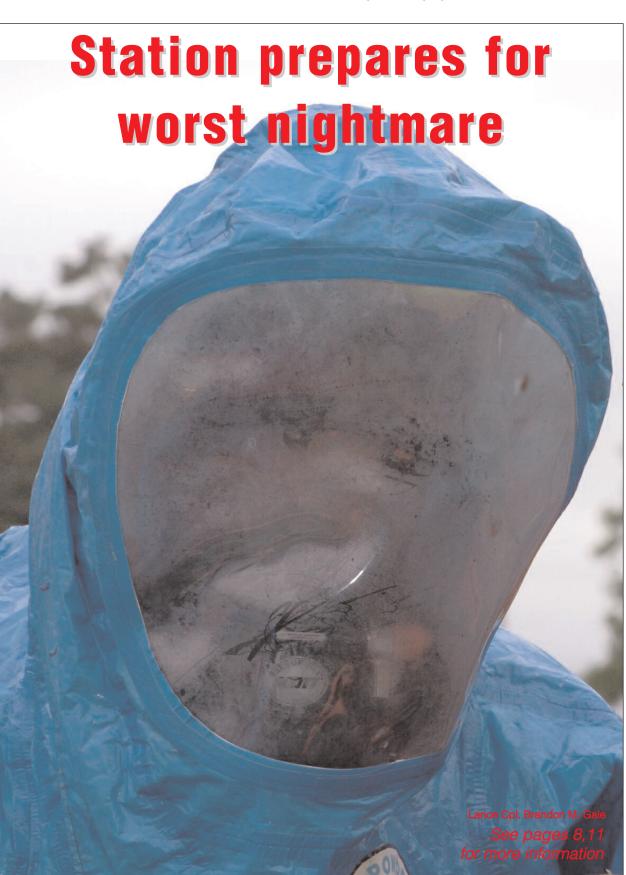
Explosive Ordnance Disposal lifer awarded Bronze Star for combat actions in Iraq

Pg. 13

MAG-29 DOES GOLF

War Eagles' show how it's done Pg. 18







FLIGHTLINES

Operation Clean Sweep

New River is conducting the annual Station-wide Spring Clean Sweep 2005 now through Saturday.

Volunteers are needed Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to assist in the Station cleanup, which helps promote safety, health, wellness and overall appearance of the community here.

Volunteers can be individual servicemembers, civilians or entire units or sections.

For more information, call Kathy Zerba at 449-6307 or send an e-mail to kathy.zerba@usmc.mil.

Military health care meeting

Captain Richard C. Welton, Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital commanding officer, is hosting the Military Retiree Health Care Town Hall Meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m. in classrooms A and B at the Naval Hospital

The meeting is a chance for military retirees to ask questions and raise concerns about issues important to them and their families.

For more information, contact the Hospital Public Affairs Office at 450-4463.

Naval academy choir concert

The United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir from Annapolis, Md., is appearing at the Camp Lejeune Base Theater on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. The proceeds from the concert will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the Camp Lejeune/Cherry Point Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association.

Tickets can be purchased at Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and New River ITT Offices. Tickets can be purchased off base in Jacksonville, N.C., at All About Music, Church's Chicken, Dance Theater of Jacksonville and Diana's Dance Academy Act II.

For additional information, contact 1st Lt. Robinson at 451-3878 or 1st Lt. Reeves at 451-6700.

Navy retired reunion

The 27th Annual Navy Retired Downeastern Reunion will be held Saturday at noon at the Jacksonville Moose Lodge.

Tickets cost \$25 per couple and \$13 per single.

For more information, call Jim Sirmon at 346-6764.

Station town hall meeting

Station Commanding Officer Col. Stephen L. Forand is hosting a Town Hall Meeting here at the Theater from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on May 5.

The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss privatization of housing on base and how it affects the current and future residents of base housing.

Beginning in October, private contractors are expected to begin managing military housing here. All residents and concerned citizens are invited to attend.

Reservations for child care are on a first come first serve basis by calling 449-6712 or 449-6713 by April 29.

New River Open House

New River is hosting an Open House on May 25, featuring the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Jet Team as they demonstrate their aerial abilities.

Also featured are the U.S. Army "Golden Knights," considered to be the world's best parachute team, now in their 44th year entertaining spectators of all ages.

The military men and women who fly the aircraft here will also be on hand to talk to visitors.

Gates open at 11 a.m., and the show starts at 1 p.m. The show is free of charge and open to the public.

Month of the Military Child

Since 1986, the Secretary of Defense has designated each April

as "Month of the Military Child."

Commands are encouraged to plan appropriate activities during the month in youth centers and child development centers.

Tillman family freedom award

Operation Homefront is proud to announce its Military Child Patriotic Scholarship Program "The Tillman Family Freedom Award."

Five Scholarships will be awarded on June 11.

The "Tillman Family Freedom Award" is offered to children of Uniformed Services members in grades 9-12 for the purpose of pursuing a post-secondary education at an accredited university, college, accredited trade school or community college.

The scholarships are worth up to \$5,000 and are currently being offered to assist with tuition, fees and books.

Applicants must resubmit an application each year they would like to be considered.

For more information, go to http://www.cinchouse.com/army/tillman_scholarship_child.htm

Flight line driving license

Air field driving classes are conducted every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at Station Operations in building AS-843. Call Cpl. Toon at 449-6311 or 449-6316.

These licenses are required for all personnel operating a government vehicle on the flight line.

Safety video distribution

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps recently made two safety video clips.

They address motor vehicle accidents, mental fitness and suicide awareness.

Copies of the video clips are available at the Combat Information Center and can be obtained in VHS or DVD form.

For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Small at 449-6676.

Spouses, kids scholarship

Anheuser-Busch has donated \$1 million to create the Intrepid/ Anheuser-Busch Fallen Heroes Fund, which provides scholarships to spouses and children of U.S. military and coalition personnel killed during the war in Iraq.

The Intrepid Museum
Foundation administers the scholarship program, provides oversight
and administration and supports the
mission of the Intrepid Sea-AirSpace Museum and operates the
Museum as a memorial, educational and charitable institution.

For more information, go to info@intrepidmuseum.org or call (212)245-0072.

Admission for theme parks

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman may qualify for free admission to any of the Busch Gardens, Sea World or Sesame Place Theme Parks under the "Here's to the Heroes" program.

For more information about this, go to www.herosalute.com.

Also, for more information, call Information, Tickets and Tours at

Report crank phone calls

Recently, some family members of deployed Marines have received crank calls about their servicemember. These calls are illegal and legal action can be taken against persons placing the calls.

Anyone who receives a crank call should report it to the Military Police District at 451-2555 or 451-2556.

Those receiving a crank call can also dial *57 to lock the number, even if it reads "blocked," on a caller identification device.

Next, call Sprint to get the number locked for 45 days. There is a cost associated with this action. Once this is accomplished it is easier to investigate the source of the call. Military Police District can then initiate an investigation.

ROTOVUE

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Bridge renamed in honor of Osprey crash victims

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

correspondent

The bridge over Mill Creek on Henderson Drive in Jacksonville was officially named the Brooks S. Gruber Bridge at a ceremony held April 8.

The bridge is intended to honor all of the Osprey program pioneers who died in the year 2000.

On April 8, 2000, MV-22 Osprey pilot Maj. Gruber was one of nineteen Marines killed when their plane crashed in Marana, Ariz., during a training mission. Eight months later, a second Osprey crashed in Hoffman Forest near Jacksonville, killing four more Marines.

On August 4, 2004, Connie J. Gruber, Maj. Gruber's widow, appeared before the Jacksonville City Council to lobby for the bridge dedication as a permanent memorial to her husband and the 22 other Marines who died. The council unanimously agreed with her proposal.

The ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church on Gum Branch Road and was attended by Jacksonville City Mayor Jan Bean Slagle; members of the city council; Walter B. Jones, North Carolina third district congressman; and Colonel Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer.

"This is a special day for the Gruber family and the city of Jacksonville," said Slagle. "No city cares more deeply for the military than Jacksonville and its residents."

The idea of a memorial to her husband and the other victims came to Gruber shortly after the accident.

Gruber said she felt a peaceful feeling knowing there is now an uplifting representation in the community for the significant part the fallen played in the history of Marine Corps aviation.

"Now, whenever those of us in the community cross the bridge, may we all be reminded of hope for the future, courage to live dreams, commitment to service and the blessings of each



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Ga

new day" she said

Many of the guests at the ceremony acknowledged the hard work Gruber put into making the memorial project a reality.

"Over the past five years, despite obstacles, challenges and emotional loss, Connie has fought tirelessly to keep the memory of my brother alive, as well as the memory of his fellow Marines," said Bradley Gruber, brother of Maj. Gruber. "I am eternally grateful and I admire her bravery and perseverance."

According to Jones, servicemembers who tragically die

while testing new aircraft and weapons must hold a special place in our memory, because they are responsible for pushing our military into the future. For this reason, they become "real heroes."

During his speech, Forand read the names of each of the victims, as a reminder that though the bridge bears Maj. Gruber's name, it is dedicated to all who lost their lives while testing the Osprey.

Prior to the memorial being unveiled, Slagle remarked, "Today is the day that an unremarkable little bridge becomes a memorial to the bravest and best this country has to offer. It will forever be a reminder."

For more information, go to the Web site at www.ospreymemorial.com.

Mayor of Jacksonville, Jan Bean Slagle, and councilman Turner Blount unveil the sign commemorating Maj. Brooks S. Gruber and other Osprey crash victims April 8. The city renamed a local bridge to honor the Marines.

Luncheon honors NMCRS volunteers

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale correspondent

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive honored approximately 45 people at its biannual volunteer awards and recognition ceremony April 7 at the Station Officer's Club.

"Volunteers are our greatest asset," said Sharon Zacharias, NMCRS volunteer chairman. "Our volunteers should be proud of what they are consistently doing for servicemembers."

The program honored the hard work of the volunteers who donated their time by working in the NMCRS office or knitting and crocheting sweaters and blankets for use in the Budget for Baby class gift bags.

Colonel Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer and honorary chairman of the NMCRS Advisory Board, presented the awards with his wife, Claire.

Alice Wolf was the only volunteer to be recognized for reaching the 6,000 hours mark. The "hourly" awards are given for service ranging from 100 hours and up.

"God has given me so much, I want to share it," said Wolf,

According to Wolf, no amount of money can equal the satisfaction she receives when she sees a child wearing a sweater made by her hands.

The appreciation luncheon was a way to honor the unpaid volunteers, said Sandi Isherwoood, Station NMCRS director.

"We depend on the volunteers," she said. "The society is driven by the volunteers."

This year's Fund Drive ended with 682 people contributing a total of \$32,258.

This total is slightly less than last year, said Forand, but since there are approximately 2,000 fewer personnel aboard the Station, the number is still a reason to be proud.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gal

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteers pose for a photo during a luncheon at the Station Officers Club on April 7. The volunteers helped by working in the office and knitting sweaters and blankets used for Budget for Baby classes.

Breakfast highlights children's issues

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola correspondent

The 4th Annual State of the Child Breakfast was held at the Infant of Prague Parish Hall on April 8 and was attended by the Station commanding officer.

Colonel Stephen L. Forand joined the Onslow County Partnership for Children, the Parent Education, Empathy, Rapport and Support Center and other community leaders to discuss combating child abuse, said Dawn Rochelle, OCPC executive director.

"People don't want to acknowledge some of the issues confronting children," said Rochelle. "We need to focus on preventing child maltreatment, because it effects every demographic. This is everyone's problem."

The event highlights issues children face locally and helps bring together community leaders in an attempt to solve those problems, said Heidi Baur, PEERS director.

"The breakfast is a way to try and figure out opportunities to make things better for people," said Baur. "Children have issues, and we need to try and serve our families more. We need to find out what's working."

Forand joined Fannie Coleman, City of Jacksonville councilwoman; Lionel Midgett, Onslow County Board of Commissioners chairman; and Commander Marilyn Brooks, CCC Director, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune as they signed a proclamation stating that preventing child abuse and neglect is the responsibility of every citizen.

The signing of the proclamation was a necessary part of the breakfast, helping to get the word out that the community and the military are together on children's issues, said Coleman.

"We are a part of each other," said Coleman. "In order for us to make it work, we need all the support we can get."

The theme of this year's breakfast was "Together We Build Brighter Futures."

For more information about child abuse prevention, contact the Family Services Center at 449-5252 or OCPC at 938-7537.

Dr. Caner addresses MAG-29



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Doctor Ergun M. Caner spoke to the War Eagles at the Station Theater on Friday. He conducted two periods of military education addressing misconceptions and strategic protocols of a jihad. See the next RotoVue for the full story.



MCAS New River celebrates 61 years of service on April 23



Don't drink and drive, instead 'Arrive Alive'

Station set for Open House

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller correspondent

The Station is hosting an Open House free to the public on May 25 featuring the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Jet Team, demonstrating their aerial flight capabilities and maneuvers.

Also performing are the U. S. Army Golden Knights, the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing band, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team and Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps. The Open House is free of charge and open to the general public.

According to the Snowbird's official Web site, in approximately their 35th season, they performed 65 shows in more than 41 locations across North America in 2004.

Also featured are the U.S. Army "Golden Knights," considered to be the world's best parachute team, now in their 44th year entertaining audiences both young and old.

According to the team's Web site, their mission is to perform live aerial demonstra-

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds Jet Team flies in formation. tions for the public, and in promotion of the Army's public relations and recruitment efforts to compete in national and international parachuting competitions; and to test and evaluate new parachuting equipment and techniques for improved operation and safety.

The Black and Gold Demonstration Teams spend more than 270 days a year entertaining more than 12 million people at air shows and special events around the country and the world. The teams have performed more than 8,500 live aerial demonstrations in 47 countries.

In addition, static displays of each of the Station's aircraft will be on display, and the servicemembers who fly and maintain them will be available to speak with visitors. Performers will also be available to interact with visitors.

The Station's gates open at 11 a.m. and the show begins at 1 p.m.



contributor photo



Town Hall meeting on PPV planned

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer correspondent

A Town Hall meeting is being held here on May 5 to discuss the privatization of housing.

The meeting is open to all residents of Family Housing, and although public private venture housing is the main subject, a number of other topics will also be addressed.

According to Jerry L. Swain, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., director of the Family Housing Division, PPV housing will be explained in great detail.

"The primary reasons for the meeting is to address topics like signing lease agreements, new housing standards, probable timelines for improvements and upgrades, and any questions on basic housing allowances, among other things," said Swain..

The PPV initiative, which was

The PPV initiative, which was made possible due to the 1996 National Defense Act, turns over base housing programs to civilian companies, said Swain, and in turn, allows the Marine Corps to offer a higher standard of living to its personnel and hopefully save money in the process.

According to the Camp Lejeune Family Housing and Referral Service Web site, the PPV program has been widely successful in many locations.

The reason for the move to PPV from current operations is simple, said Talladega, Ala., native Swain. It's a matter of money. "As far as the (Department of Defense) is concerned, the amount of funding we can provide for housing improvements is based on five-year distribution cycles," he said. "The partners don't have to deal with that holdback.

"It's also a matter of getting the appropriation, since we are involved in a war."

Money isn't the only issue, however, according to Swain. Providing Marines and their families with the best possible living conditions is always a priority.

"In relation to taking care of Marines, the principle is this: If a contractor doesn't make the homes just as attractive as the ones in the civilian sector, our Marines and Sailors won't rent from them. Plain and simple. He has to make the improvements and keep you happy in order to keep your business," said Swain.

The command is also working hand-in-hand with the contractors to make sure that all base and Station regulations are met, said

"The civilian community has it's own set of regulations to follow, and when you mix them with our own, servicemembers begin to have two nets of security to aid them," he said.

As far as transitioning into PPV from the current method of operation, that is exactly what the Town Hall meeting is intended to facilitate.

"Our intent is to get the word out," said Swain.

April is the month of the military child



🚁 lt's your life, buckle up 🌋

Station swept up in Spring Clean

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo correspondent

Volunteers are still needed for the annual Clean Sweep event, which is continuing through Saturday and is open to any person, Marine or civilian who is interested in volunteering, said Kathy Zerba, Clean Sweep volunteer coordinator from New Bern, N.C.

The event is held every year in accordance with Earth Day, and the main goal is to clean the Station and surrounding areas of pollutants, said Doug Hamilton, environmental protection specialist from Morristown, Ohio.

"Saturday, we will be collecting all hazardous material and hazardous waste from base housing," said Hamilton. "Some of the things we are looking for are fuels, oils, paints, chemicals, pesticides, anti-freeze and insecticides."

The collection point for these types of wastes is at the Station Theater parking lot from 8 a.m. to noon.

Commands, Marines living in the barracks and families from base housing are encouraged to embrace the amnesty period and rid themselves of excess materials and waste, he added.

The Station has been divided into different sections for volunteers to clean, said Hamilton.

Marine Aircraft Group-29 is in charge of the Station's land, and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron is cleaning out the river and along the shoreline. Station civilians are cleaning along Highway 17 surrounding the Station, and all other volunteers will tackle the task of cleaning out base housing areas, said Zerba.

"We're looking for as many volunteers as we can get," she said. "We've had good responses from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, but we would like to see more people volunteer."

To help boost volunteer response, Zerba sent out Station-wide e-mails and distributed flyers.

The reaction from the Marines has been optimal, she said.

Marine Aircraft Group-29 is taking an entire day to go out and help clean up, she added.

Last year, volunteers removed water heaters, toilets, swing sets and more than 45 tires from the New River, said Hamilton.

"This is our Station," said Zerba. "We live and work here. We should take some pride in it and keep it as clean as possible."

For more information or to volunteer to help with the Spring Clean, call Zerba at 449-6307, or send her an e-mail at kathy.zebra@usmc.mil.



ATFP drill tests Station readiness

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale correspondent

The North Carolina Regional Exercise '05, an anti-terrorism/force protection drill mandated by Headquarters Marine Corps and organized by Community Research Associates, Inc., was conducted here April 9.

The exercise involved a scripted scenario designed to test the reaction capabilities of Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marine Corps Air Stations Cherry Point, N.C., and New River, N.C., and Onslow County civilian emergency and relief organizations to a

(Right) Medical technicians suit up in hazardous material gear during the regional anti-terrorism force protection exercise held here on April 9. The exercise tested the Station's readiness. (Below) A controlled burn is monitored by Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting as part of the exercise. The burn was used to add realism to the event.

terrorist attack.

The exercise started at approximately 9 a.m. when a small airplane sprayed Marines at Camp Geiger with the chemical, methyl parathion, while they were conducting physical training. The chemical is an insecticide known to cause breathing difficulty and muscle contractions.

Minutes later, the same aircraft crashed into one of the Station hangars here.

"The primary component of the drill is the coordination and communication between all of the organizations and agencies on the

See **ATFP** on page 11







Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society finished its annual Fund Drive, which began March 1, with a total of \$32,258 donated by 682 contributors.

This was accomplished in spite of the loss of approximately 2,000 Marines and Sailors from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing who are deployed.

However, contributions don't have to stop there. For more information about how to give to the NMCRS, call the Station representative at 449-6846.







Security personnel set up check - points during the exercise to control the spread of contaminants.

ATFP from page 8

installations in responding to a terrorist incident," said Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, the exercise Incident Commander.

In the event of an actual incident, all information is routed to the Emergency Operations Center, where Forand and Station department heads coordinate the best way to handle the situation.

"Anytime you have an aircraft crash, there are a myriad of people involved," said David Colvin, Station deputy director of Operations and anti-terrorism officer. "We want to work out the command and control through the different agencies."

The first responders -- aircraft rescue and firefighting, explosive ordnance disposal and military police -- were dispatched to the scene of the simulated plane crash. They were met by actors with bloody, torn clothes, and a controlled fire was burning near a training aircraft.

Civilian and military controllers and evaluators were at the site to monitor all activity.

After the initial rush to deal with the emergency, other agencies here became involved. Those agencies, like Marine Corps Community Services, used the exercise to examine how they could best offer assistance.

"We provide services to first responders and family members of the victims," said Maj. Murray W. Chapman, MCCS deputy director. "It's important to exercise the capabilities that we have."

According to Forand, finding and addressing any shortfalls in the communication systems was the most important issue of the day.

"You get an honest assessment of what you did well and what you didn't do well," he said. "You find shortcomings in the procedures, and you develop a training plan to fix any deficiencies."

While readiness exercises are conducted annually, this drill was larger than any seen in the past, he said.

"In a perfect world you wouldn't need to exercise because you'd be so well trained and able to react quickly," he said.



RotoView

How has the Marine Corps changed your life?



"I've gained a lot more responsibility."

Cpl. Nicholas J. Huston Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, ground support equipment technician



"It's made me a lot more cautious and more of a people person."

Sgt. Dedrick Clark Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, barracks manager



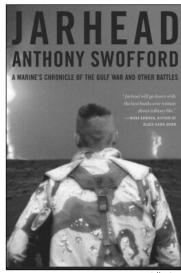
"Being a Marine makes others hold you to a higher standard and allows me a chance to help people."

Pvt. Benjamin L. Archer Installation Personnel Administration Center, service record book database technician

Book Review: Anthony Swofford's 'Jarhead'

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb correspondent

In his decision to serve his country, Anthony Swofford followed a family tradition. His



contributor

father served in Vietnam and his grandfather in World War II. In his book, "Jarhead," Swofford gives a powerful and detailed description of his life, particularly as a Marine and his involvement in the first Persian Gulf War.

Growing up, Swofford faced many difficulties, such as his sister having a history of severe emotional problems and his brother dying of cancer.

Swofford goes on to describe his difficulties in recruit training and recounts events that occurred throughout his Marine Corps career.

After completing his formal training, Swofford was stationed with a scout/sniper platoon involved in combat in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the Gulf War.

He spoke of his mixed feelings

"Jarhead," by Anthony Swofford, is a 256 page memoir of a Marine's life in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm of a combat situation and the blood lust, temporary boredom, terror and many moments he described as absurd, such as wearing woodland camouflage because his unit's desert camouflage had not yet arrived, or playing football in field protective masks for media.

Simultaneously, he became increasingly aware that becoming a man involved much more than just being a successful Marine.

Throughout the book,

Swofford details events, such as having to burn Iraqi corpses, that he says still haunts his dreams.

A New York Times reviewer said, "By turns profane and lyrical, swaggering and ruminative, 'Jarhead' -- referring to the Marines' 'high-and-tight' haircuts, which make their heads look like jars -- is not only the most powerful memoir to emerge thus far from the last Gulf War, but also a searing contribution to the literature of combat."



Marine earns Bronze Star, retires after 25 years

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale correspondent

Surrounded by family and comrades, Master Sgt. Richard L. Harrington received the Bronze Star on Friday at the Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 headquarters during his retirement ceremony after 25 years of service.

Harrington served as the

explosive ordnance disposal staff noncommissioned officer-incharge, Engineer Operations Company, MWSS-273 from February to July 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom-II.

According to the award citation, while in Iraq, Harrington's teams completed more than 180 missions outside of the Al Asad Airbase perimeter, and he coura-

geously led 30 improvised explosive device response calls. These highly dangerous operations

resulted in the removal of more than two million pounds of enemy weapons and ammunition.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Master Sergeant Richard L. Harrington receives a Bronze Star Medal and certificates of appreciation from Lt. Col. Paul C. Merritt, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 commanding officer on Friday. The medal is given to servicemembers who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service.

"It's hard for me to appreciate it as much as I should," said Harrington.

The sacrifices he made and the dangers he was put in, he said, were no different than those of his teammates.

"It would mean more to me if everybody who deserved it got one," he continued.

Among the many dangers Harrington and his team faced was the bounty placed on their heads by the enemy.

"Individuals within our area of operations were trying to kill EOD (technicians)," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Curtis J. Smith, MWSS-272 EOD officer-incharge.

"If insurgents were to kill an EOD tech, they would be given a \$50,000 to \$200,000 reward. We went outside the gate knowing people were actually hunting for

us."

Harrington kept many of his job's dangers secret from his family. His wife, Robin, said she was surprised to learn of the price on her husband's head.

"It's amazing what they do on a daily basis," she said. "We're very proud of him."

To her, the medal is a symbol of her husband's devotion to his family and his county, she said.

After 25 years of service, Harrington said he looks forward to spending more time with his family.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Harrington and his wife, Robin, embrace during his retirement ceremony at Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 headquarters on Friday. At the ceremony, Harrington also received a Bronze Star.

Untouchables 'make ready' for upcoming deployment overseas

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

correspondent

The "Untouchables" of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 underwent field training April 7-13 in preparation for their August deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The training we're doing now is a one-week consolidated show-andtell of what we can do for air base ground defense, which is our primary mission," said 1st Lt. Adele M. Burks, MWSS-272 adjutant from Far Rockaway Queens, N.Y.

The training, which took place at the Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field, Bogue, N.C., included rapid runway repair, mine detection, security



and reconnaissance patrols, improvised explosive device simulations and field hygiene. All are issues the unit will likely have to deal with while deployed. Marines were also given an opportunity to livefire their rifles on a maneuver

Lance Corporal Kenneth H. Loock, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 combat engineer cleans his rifle while sitting on a cot in the bivouac site at Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field, Bogue, N.C. The Marines were expected to keep their gear

course as part of the Enhanced Marksmanship Program.

"There has been a lot of concern with inadequate training prior to a unit deploying or only getting check-in-the-box training," said Burks. "MWSS-272 goes above and beyond that on a daily basis."

The training served as a refresher to the skills the different sections of MWSS-272 practice all the time. However, this is the first time the entire squadron has trained together as part of their preparation, said Sgt. Ryan E. Hartline, MWSS-272 engineering technician. The engineer company's exercises included mending a 30-foot crater on the runway, he said.

"We've had a lot of stepping stones, so putting so much into a oneweek package is just a culmination of past training," said Burks. "It's more real world than what we've done before."

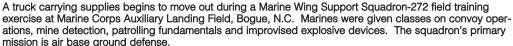
That real world training extended to health and comfort information as well. Ensuring Marines learn about proper hygiene to prevent the spread of bacteria was the priority of a class covered by Petty Officer 3rd Class Martin R. Graves, preventive medicine technician. Sanitation is the key to improving living conditions and keeping good morale, he said.

Lance Cpl. Jose A. Gomez, MWSS-272 warehouse clerk, said he felt the convoy training was one of the more important topics covered. Marines were taught how to exit the humvees and get into position as quickly as possible in the event of an attack.

The squadron took the week of training seriously, according to Hartline, due to the fact that many of these situations may become a reality while in Iraq. Burks said much of the training was based on the feedback the squadron has received from its counterparts overseas. It also teaches the members of MWSS-272 reliance on their peers.

"It's a great opportunity to see what they are capable of," she said. "The Marines like getting out there in the field, doing what they've been trained to do. It keeps their minds occupied and gives them a sense of pro-



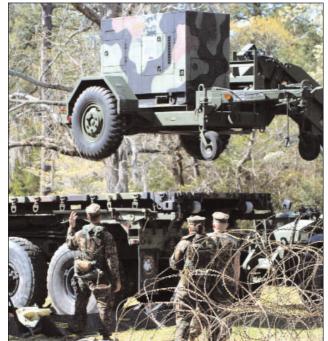












(Above) A generator is carefully lifted onto a truck during the field training exercise. Bringing equipment to the field by convoy was part of the squadron's training. (Left) Marines await the order to face left and begin firing during Enhanced Marksmanship Program training. The program simulates many of the positions Marines will be required to fire from if they are involved in a firefight while deployed, such as firing around corners and firing while using only



(Top) Marines load magazines on a live fire maneuver range before taking part in the Enhanced Marksmanship Program. (Top Right) A Marine gazes up range and listens for her next commands from the range coach after finishing a series of fire on the EMP range. (Above) Approximately 6,700 rounds were fired during each day's exercise. Shooters alternated firing from the 15 and 5 yard lines. (Right) Marines form a school circle around Petty Officer 3rd Class Martin R. Graves, preventive medicine technician, as h instructs them on proper field hygiene. Graves also taught them which insects deployed Marines might encounter while in Iraq, such as the common camel spider, and the symptoms of their bites.





From one Marine to another, Merry (belated) Christmas

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo correspondent

Last Wednesday during his science class at Brewster Middle School, Juan "Tido" Beltran Jr.'s Christmas wish came true.

Personally delivered to him by his family and three retired Marines was the Christmas card he wished for four months ago.

The gift, a photographic montage signed by astronauts, was all he asked for last Christmas.

"It is a great feeling for a father to be able to see the surprise," said Chief Warrant Officer Juan C. Beltran, from Salinas, Puerto Rico. "It is funny how it all came together, though."

Beltran, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 aviation supply officer, was deployed to Iraq during Christmas 2004.

Through the postal service, he corresponded with his son who asked for nothing

except a Christmas card signed by an astronaut for Christmas. Beltran, while some 6,000 miles away, got busy making his son's Christmas wish come true.

Through a network of retired Marines and with the help of some members of the Leatherneck Motorcycle Club, the wish trickled its way to Houston, where National Aeronautics and Space Administration trains astronauts.

From there, Wayne Miner, who works at NASA and is a member of the Texas chapter of the Leatherneck Motorcycle Club, received the information regarding the Christmas wish, but at the time, the astronauts were on leave celebrating Christmas with their own families. Miner did not let the wish die.

He waited for their return and once they did, he took it upon himself to purchase a NASA photographic montage. From there, he was able to get more than one of the astronauts to sign the montage.

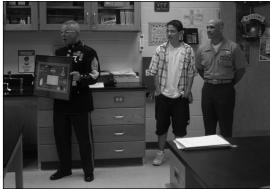
Next, Miner contacted a friend of his who resides in the Jacksonville, N.C., area.

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Harry Weatherly received the montage, had it framed and held onto it until Beltran returned from Iraq.

After traveling across the world in a timeframe of four months the wish came true due to Marines helping Marines, said Weatherly.

"It was an honor," said retired 1st Lt. Larry L. Hunt, who hails from Fremont, Ohio, and is a member of the Texas chapter of the Leathernecks. "You really feel for the kids; it has to be hard with (operational) tempo as high as it is."

The Beltran family wanted to thank all of the people who made this event possible and all of the Marines, retired and active, who truly understand the meaning of taking care of their own.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Harry Weatherly, (left), gives a brief description of the history of the photo montage last Wednesday. The montage was autographed by National Aeronautic and Space Administration astronauts and was the result of the work of a network of former Marines working together to help a Marine give his son the only Christmas gift he wished for last year.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Chief Warrant Officer Juan C. Beltran Sr. gives his son Juan "Tido" Beltran Jr. a photo montage signed by astronauts during his science class last Wednesday. His father was in Iraq when Juan made his Christmas wish last year.





HUMIDOR

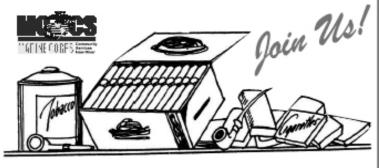
Appreciation Night

April 22th 1900 - 2200 MCAS Officers' Club

Enjoy a variety pack of Premium Cigars
Heavy Hors d'oeuves
featuring
Steamship Round & Shrimp Pasta Station

Members \$ 20 Non-Members \$ 25 RSVP by 4/20/05

This event is OPEN to all!



For reservations call 449-6409.

New River Air Station
Bowling Center

Summer Leagues

Available

Wednesday Night Mixed Starts 18 May 05 6:30 pm

Thursday Senior Mixed/ 50 + Starts 19 May 05 1pm

Saturday Youth League Ages 6 - 21 Starts April 16th 4pm

NO-TAP



APRIL 30TH

\$16

*TURKEY SHOOT *STRIKE POT

(extra)



MAG-29 takes a swing at MAG-wide golf outing

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola correspondent

Marines from Marine Aircraft Group-29 participated in a four-man scramble golf tournament April 8 at the Jacksonville Country Club.

The tournament was designed as a MAG-wide team-building event that provided the War Eagles an opportunity to have a day off and recharge their batteries, said Col. Mark D. Mahaffey, MAG-29 commanding officer.

"Sometimes you owe it to yourself and you owe it to your family to take a day off," said Mahaffey. "It helps us be more productive and better Marines."

The low-key plan for the tournament blossomed into a huge event, said Dale

Shankland, Jacksonville Country Club head golf professional.

"The tournament was good for our club and for the exposure of the facility," said Shankland. "It was a privilege to have the Marines here."

A full field of 96 Marines competed in the best ball tournament, with each "fire team" shooting from the position of the best previous shot. Despite naming winners and losers, the tournament was about solidarity, said Staff Sgt. Michael Brodie, MAG-29 headquarters electronic key management systems manager.

"We were out here to enjoy it and enjoy the company of others who enjoy the sport," said Brodie. "A bad day at golf beats a good day at work."

The winning team from Marine Medium

Helicopter Squadron-261 of 1st Lt. Adam D. Bruner and Jordan W. Vannater, Sgt. Timothy W. Day and Cpl. Charles R. Macalik posted a score of 66 to overcome a 68 shot by Lt. Col. Christopher M. Clayton, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 commanding officer, Maj. Robert B. Ford, Capt. Barton B. O'Brien and Navy Lt. Abram J. Elsenraat.

O'Brien and Ford took the closest-tothe-pin competition held during the tournament on holes 16 and 18, respectively, and were joined by Maj. William S. Burger who had the longest drive of the day on hole 16.

Raffles were held to award gift packages, free rounds of golf at Jacksonville Country Club and golf clubs. Proceeds from the raffle are held in a fund for the Marine Corps ball and MAG-29-sponsored mess nights.

"The intent of this evolution is to share in each other's camaraderie and fellowship," said Mahaffey. "Sometimes, in the Marine Corps, we forget it's still supposed to be fun"

(From left to right) Lieutenant Col. Patrick M. Delatte, Marine Aircraft Group-29 Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, Lt. Col. John K. Faircloth, MAG-29 executive officer, Col. Mark D. Mahaffey, MAG-29 CO, and Sgt. Maj. William H. Bly, MAG-29 sergeant major, pose for a photo at the MAG-29 golf outing.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Lieutenant Col. John K. Faircloth, MAG-29 executive officer, attempts a putt on the fifth green that narrowly misses, giving the team an opening-hole birdie. Faircloth was one of the 96 Marines to compete in the event.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosol

The winning team from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 consists of 1st Lts. Adam D. Bruner and Jordan W. Vannater, Sgt. Timothy W. Day and Cpl. Charles R. Macalik. The team posted a score of 66 to overcome the field.

H&HS bowls over opposition

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale correspondent

As the Station Intramural Bowling League season closed, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron team was awarded the first-place trophy during a ceremony at the Station Bowling Alley April 5.

Colonel Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer from Fall River, Mass., presented the trophy.

This is the first time in five years H&HS has taken home the trophy, said John C. Miller, team member and Installation Personnel Administration Center separations chief from Hamilton, Ohio. Miller also won an award for having the season's highest scoring game.

"It's a good feeling to win it for the team and to represent H&HS," he said.

That feeling of camaraderie is the reason many servicemembers said they participated in the bowling league.

"The unique thing about bowling is that it's not only an individual sport, it's also about teamwork," said Michael Smith, Station assistant athletic director from Gahanna, Ohio. "It gives Marines a chance to get off work and come here to have a good time."

According to Smith, the league has been in existence for approximately 15 years and is open to all squadrons. Each season lasts 26 weeks. Ten teams participated this year, with between five and ten bowlers on each team.

Staff Sgt. Jerry A. Sherrill, league secretary and Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302 maintenance controller who hails from Hickory, N.C., said he has been involved with the league for three years and is glad to be able to turn his hobby into something productive.

"It's a really good thing to have," he said. "It builds a little competition between some of the units here. Friendly competition, of course."

Second and third place awards went to teams from the CH-46E Maintenance Training Unit and Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, respectively.



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

(From left to right) Lieutenant Col. Gregory F. Kleine, John C. Miller, Staff Sgt. Earl G. Stump, Staff Sgt. Andrew C. Wickenden, Maj. John P. Horvat Jr., Master Gunnery Sgt. Purvis D. Lockett and Gunnery Sgt. Riley J. Tennyson celebrate their victory after winning the Intramural Bowling League on April 5. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron took first place in the 26-week-long league.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Major Richard T. Anderson, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 S-3 officer, attempts to muscle out the longest drive on hole 16 at the Jacksonville Country Club April 8. Anderson and others were outdistanced by Maj. William S. Burger who took the longest drive competition. Burger and others were awarded prize packages for winning competitions held during the golf tournament.



New River Tax Center

As of April 13, the number of Marines, Sailors and civilians who utilized the New River Tax Center was 2,516.

Of these, a total of 233 paper returns and 2,244 electronic returns have been filed.

The total amount refunded to Station personnel came to approximately \$3,702,832.

The final amount saved on services provided equaled \$350,755 for those who used the Tax Center's free services.

For more information about tax extensions, contact the center at 449-7400.

Getting in the groove of gratitude

Lt. Doug McCormick
Marine Aircraft Group-29 chaplain



"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will." - 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to become part of a complaining session?

You know what it's like one person voices a displeasure with something or some-

one and soon another adds something to it and before long we can be in the middle of a discussion that we ourselves had no real thoughts about before. I have seen lives and relationships destroyed by this habit.

Sometimes the complainers seem clueless to the harm they cause by the collateral damage. It can seem to pull the very life out of things.

When I first went into the ministry, I visited a woman in the community named Gertie. She was part of the extended family of the church. Gertie lived alone in a little mobile home park. When I would stop by to visit I would ask, "Gertie, how ya doing?" For the next 45 minutes I would hear how wretched life was. I would hear a long list of complaints about people and politics along with her physical problems that restricted her. Don't get me wrong - most of what she complained about was fairly accurate - politics were not much "nicer" 12 years ago, people still did wrong things, and her health was certainly less than banner.

It was just that, contrary to the occasional "venting" that helps people get past some things, this process seemed to gather and keep all the troubles around her like Charlie Brown's little friend Pig Pen's cloud of dust that went wherever he did

I believed that it was literally draining life out of her and her relationships. It isolated her from her peers who were often already overwhelmed by some of the same things. I decided I couldn't endure any more of the litanies without recognition of some of the blessings in her life, blessings which had less and less room. The next time I visited I changed my question - "Gertie, tell me one thing you are thankful for."

As a Chaplain, I believe it is always a good thing to try to find the good out of any calamity that comes our way. We may or may not agree with it, but we all need to look for the good in it.

Many times these are the best times to help teach us a lesson. Sometimes it is God giving us a swift kick, time to get us back on track; it is a wake up call. If we take the negative view, it usually leads us to a path of destruction and many times brings other down with us. Try to be an optimist in your life.

Back to Gertie; it was an awkward moment. If she were a car you would have smelled brakes and rubber as she had to slow the momentum of her life. Over the next years, we slowly grew the number of things to be thankful for from one to two, to three, to four... thankfulness and gratitude, can be a life-changing force.

The difficulties didn't go away, we simply changed the lenses through which she peered at her life. Instead of clouding the blessings by looking through the lenses of her difficulties, she began to soften the sharp edges of her difficulties as she looked through the lenses of her blessings.

Try an experiment in your house for the next year. Put a little coin box on your table at home and begin a daily practice of giving a thanks offering. Each day drop a coin into the box as you count your blessings. You'll be surprised how much sense (and cents) it makes to follow the command to give thanks.

Watch the affect it will have on the atmosphere of your relationships and home when you suddenly have to think about a person with thanks rather than complain, when you face a difficult situation with thanks to God for his presence in the midst of it, when you simply stop and give thanks. Come on; get in the "groove of gratitude!"

Memorial Chapel Services

Catholic 9 a.m. Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.



Child abuse everyone's problem

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola correspondent

The abuse, exploitation and crime that seem to prey often on the young strike all of us, if not with our own children, than with those children appearing on our televisions and in our newspapers who are silenced, missing and beaten each day.

The month of April marks
National Child Abuse Prevention
Month, helping to raise awareness
of issues that children and families
are facing daily, said Leslie H.
Slosky, Marine Family Service
Center intervention and treatment
unit coordinator.

"Children grow up to be adults; it's a repeating pattern (of abuse)," said Slosky. "Child abuse has become a highlighted media issue, but it's more than that. People question what (child abuse) is, but neglect can be the same thing."

Although Amber Alert cases and deaths capture our attention, every-day issues such as domestic violence, divorce, deployments and over-stressed mothers are problems that commonly plague children, said Slosky.

"There's a higher standard today, and people don't always know that," said Slosky. "Families will fight in front of their kids and expose them to violence. We need to help raise awareness and educate."

Raising awareness and educating the public may help to reverse instances of child maltreatment.

According to the latest study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, an estimated 896,000 children were determined

to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2002 with more than 60 percent of child victims experiencing neglect. Almost 20 percent were physically abused; 10 percent were sexually abused; and 7 percent were emotionally maltreated.

To help New River servicemembers and their families prevent abuse, the Marine Family Services Center and related agencies offer parental coaching and guidance, as well as classes and education about dealing with deployments, domestic violence and divorce, said Slosky.

"We do a real good job with the ones that we reach," said Slosky. "We provide counseling services and workshops on raising children in a non-violent home."

To heighten community awareness, Station Commanding Officer Col. Stephen L. Forand participated in the 4th Annual State of the Child Breakfast on April 8 to discuss combating child abuse in Onslow County, said Dawn Rochelle, Onslow County Partnership for Children executive director.

"Consistently our county remains fourth in North Carolina based on the number of substantiated cases of child maltreatment," said Rochelle. "This is everyone's problem, and we need to find out what we can do as a community."

Working to end child abuse and maltreatment in society can help save families from having to endure an endless nightmare and insure that moments of poor judgment don't become lifelong stumbling blocks.

For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month contact Leslie Slosky at the Family Services Center at 449-5252.

MFSC, KVN work together to help children of the deployed

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo correspondent

Marine Family Service Center, unit Key Volunteers and Marine Corps Family Team Building Center personnel are working together to help assist the children of deployed Marines cope with their parent's absence.

The sessions are usually coordinated through the unit Key Volunteers and are held in the MCFTB Center during KVN meetings about two or three times a month.

"This helps them deal with the emotional stress that comes when a parent is deploying or returning," said organizer and MFSC program manager for prevention and education, Karen Slack. "It also helps build teamwork and boosts interaction."

Sessions start with a pupper show and from there, kids move to different sections, all of which focus on a specific activity and are supervised by one of the volunteers.

"I was having them do a drawing game," said Quinn E. Slack, volunteer and MFSC program manager for the youth

and teen program. "It helps them follow directions and builds listening skills. They love to do this stuff."

Karen said the sessions began about a year ago and have been a success based on the support of the volunteers.

"The whole goal is to come in and have fun, interact, laugh and joke around," said Wayne Williams, volunteer from Onslow county schools. "I volunteered because I enjoy working with kids."

These sessions are usually held within the first month of a squadron deployment and about a month before the return, said Karen.

This is the time stress is highest for the children, she

To schedule a session, contact the unit KVN.

Quinn E. Slack, volunteer and Marine Family Service Center program manager for the youth and teen program, helps the children of deployed Marines with a drawing exercise April 9. These sessions are a service provided by a volunteer force to help the children deal with emotional stress.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo



Station Theater Movies

April 20 - May 8

Day/Date	<u>Time</u>	Title	Rating	Length	
Fri. April 22	7 p.m.	The Pacifier	PG	95	min.
•	9:30 p.m.	Diary of a Mad Black Woman	PG-13	116	min.
Sat. April 23	7 p.m.	The Pacifier	PG	95	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Million Dollar Baby	PG-13	133	min.
Sun. April 24	3 p.m.	The Pacifier	PG	95	min.
	6 p.m.	Diary of a Mad Black Woman	PG-13	116	min.
Mon. April 25	7 p.m.	Be Cool	PG-13	120	min.
Wed. April 27	9 a.m.	Diary of a Mad Black Woman	PG-13	116	min.
	7 p.m.	Diary of a Mad Black Woman	PG-13	116	min.
Fri. April 29	7 p.m.	Robots	PG	86	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Be Cool	PG-13	120	min.
Sat. April 30	7 p.m.	Robots	PG	86	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Be Cool	PG-13	120	min.
Sun. May 1	3 p.m.	Robots	PG	86	min.
	6 p.m.	To Be Decided			
Mon. May 2	7 p.m.	Robots	PG	86	min.
Wed. May 4	9 a.m.	Be Cool	PG-13	120	min.
	7 p.m.	Hostage	R	113	min.
Fri. May 6	7 p.m.	Ice Princess	G	92	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Hostage	R	113	min.
Sat. May 7	7 p.m.	Ice Princess	G	92	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Hostage	R	113	min.
Sun. May 8	3 p.m.	Ice Princess	G	92	min.
	6 p.m.	Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous	PG-13	111	min.



Movies and times are subject to change. For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.



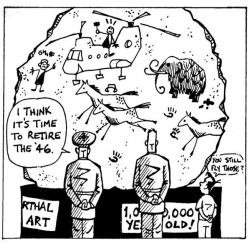
The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins.

A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.

FEATHERNECK



CRAIG H. STREETER



Schedule TV

April 22 - 28

Show Title	Show Times			
A Day in Vietnam	7:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.			
The Morning Report	8 a.m., 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 12 a.m., 4 a.m.			
Air Force News	8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m.			
Your Corps	9 a.m., 5 p.m., 1 a.m.			
Army News	9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 1:30 a.m.			
In Memoriam: New York City 9/11/01	10 a.m., 6 p.m., 2 a.m.			
Marine Sniper Legend Carlos Hathcock	11 a.m., 7 p.m.,3 a.m.			
The Pacific Report	12:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 4:30 a.m.			
Navy/Marine Corps News	1 p.m., 9 p.m., 5 a.m.			
Columbia University	1:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 5:30 a.m.			
Pentagon Ch. On Assignment	2 p.m., 10 p.m., 6 a.m.			
Pentagon Ch. Studio 5	2:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m., 6:30 a.m.			
North Carolina; A Special Kind Of Spider3 p.m., 11 p.m., 7 a.m.				

MAG-26 welcomes K



Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb

First Lt. Tracy Robinson, adjutant of Marine Aircraft Group-26, reads a completion certificate to approximately 10 new Key Volunteer Network graduates for MAG-26 at the Family Team Building here April 6. The volunteers are used to help disseminate information to the families of deployed troops and fight rumors while Marines are deployed. KVNs must be appointed in writing by the commanding officer